The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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"CLEAR-SIGHTED" PERSONS WANT TO LEAD THE UNIONS

Especially Endowed Have Graciously Volunteered to Direct Wage Earners "Who Do Not Understand the Labor Movement"

Chicago, March 11.—The American trade union movement has no idealism, social vision or soul, according to the newly-formed trade union educational league, W. Z. Foster, secretary-treasurer.

For more than 30 years the American trade union movement has combatted duallists, secessionists and disrupters. The league acknowledges that all these have failed, and duallists and secessionists are called upon to abandon their side shows and get in the trade union organizations, which can then be given revolutionary purposes.

The league is described as "an informal grouping of the progressive and revolutionary elements throughout the entire trade union movement." There will be no dues, no charters and no per capita tax. Revenue will be secured through contributions and the sale of literature.

"Militants" of all trades will be formed to "carry on the work of education and reorganization in their respective localities." These groups will be divided according to industry and will be linked up with the trade union educational league.

The league's organ, the Labor Herald, revamps the old libel that the trade union movement preaches the identity of "capital (meaning capitalists) and labor." Says this publication:

"Instead of advocating the prevailing shameful and demoralizing nonsense about harmonizing the interests of capital and labor, it (the league) is firing the workers' imagination and releasing their wonderful idealism and energy by propagating the inspiring goal of the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of a workers' republic."

The league advocates affiliation with the red "trade union" international of Lenine and Trotsky.

The "educators" have the same contempt for the rank and file of organized labor that all revolutionists have. It is declared that the rank and file doesn't understand the labor movement and that these wage earners must be led. The Labor Herald says:

"The fate of all labor organization in every country depends primarily upon the activities of a minute minority of clear-sighted enthusiastic militants scattered throughout the great organized masses of sluggish workers. These live spirits are the natural head of the working class, the driving force of the labor movement. They are the only ones who really understand what the labor struggle means and who have practical plans for its prosecution. Touched by the divine fire of proletarian revolt, they are the ones who furnish inspiration and guidance to the groping masses."

Summed up, this is the position of the trade union educational league: "After 30 years of dualism, secession and turmoil among the workers you "militants" and revolutionists have failed to even impress the American trade union movement with your purpose. You have been defeated at every p[illegible]. It is time to change your tactic[illegible] get on the inside of the unions. [illegible] are "the natural head of the working class." The rank and file does not understand the labor movement.

Gorgas, Low-Wage Foe, Is Eulogized

Birmingham, Ala., March 11.—"The name Gorgas will live long after the peoples of the earth have forgotten the heroes of the world's greatest war," said Sir Auckland Geddes, British ambassador, in a speech at the initiation of the Gorgas foundation memorial.

"This great sanitarian," said the British ambassador, conquered yellow fever in Panama and was the instigator of a movement for better health conditions in the tropics that will last for all time. Other speakers also paid high tribute to the memory of the late surgeon general of the United States army.

General Gorgas' fight in Panama against poverty and low wages, as causes for disease, are well known to trade unionists. He never ceased connecting low wages with poverty, bad sanitary conditions and disease—statements by him that are unfortunately overlooked by those who now sound his praises. In a speech in Cincinnati, in 1914, General Gorgas said:

"That poverty is the greatest single cause of bad sanitary conditions was very early impressed upon me. If I should again go into a community, such as Cuba or Panama, and were allowed to select only one sanitary measure, but were at the same time given power to choose from all sanitary measures, I would select that of doubling wages.

"This, in my case, is not altogether theory. In our tropical possessions, in Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Panama, the result has come about that as we increased wages we improved sanitation."

In defense of his theory, General Gorgas specifically pointed to Panama, where increased wages "increased the ability of the people to live well and to get better food and better clothing."

WOULD HAVE RAILWAYS INSURE FOR WORKLESS

New York, March 11.—Railroads should set up unemployment insurance for employes that they may receive at least half pay during seasonal unemployment periods, suggested Henry T. Hunt, former mayor of Cincinnati and former member of the railroad labor board, in a speech before local business men.

"It is estimated," said Mr. Hunt, "that on the average over a period of years about 95 per cent of railroad workers, excluding casual common labor, are employed and 5 per cent unemployed.

"Payment of half of the wages to the unemployed railroad workers regularly on the roll would involve the addition of 2½ per cent to the wage bill. If railroad employes were thus insured against unemployment, can it be denied that the removal of fear of poverty, debt and the misery to themselves and their families would add 2½ per cent to the productivity?"

In reviewing railroad labor troubles, Mr. Hunt said:

"The experience of railroad employes is that justice can be obtained only by a display of force and not by negotiations, and that the present legislation is the child of conflict."

He added that the railroads must do more than simply protect themselves from attack.

"They must take part in solving the problem of other costs. They must not only devise ways and means for more economical handling at terminal points and for eliminating losses and waste in transit, but they must co-operate with others in developing more economical marketing methods."

TAX LAW ILLEGAL.

Trenton, N. J., March 11.—The state supreme court has set aside the five-year tax exemption act of 1920 which relieved from taxation dwellings constructed during a certain period.

The bill was based on the theory that landlords would pass on to their tenants any saving they made in the way of tax relief. The landlords, however, took their savings and demanded more. In setting aside the act, the supreme court practically declared that it gave some landlords an unjust rake-off.

UNEMPLOYMENT HOLDS.

Chicago, March 11.—In discussing unemployment conditions in this state on the first of February, the state department of labor says:

"Optimism was sounded in letters, which several manufacturers attached to their reports, and the free employment service superintendents report better feeling in the cities in which offices are being operated. However, this better feeling has not manifested itself to any great extent in an increase in industrial operations or the reduction of unemployment."

BIG TELEPHONE PROFITS.

New York, March 11.—Last year's profits of the American telephone and telegraph company were $54,-062,793, according to a report just issued by the company.

RAILROADS RETAIN JAP SHIP CONTRACTS

Washington, March 11.—The Great Northern and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroads refuse to cancel their contracts with Japanese ship owners, wherein the railroads pledge to boycott American vessels and forward their freight in the Japs' ships.

These patriotic railroad managers want the government to guarantee them an equally good business proposition as their boycott on American vessels amount to.

Ever since United States Senator Ransdell made public the number of railroads that are parties to these boycott contracts, the United States shipping board has tried to secure their annullment.

Several conferences have been held with representatives of the two northwestern roads, but these managers decline to act, unless they are assured as favorable a contract. Government officials refuse to make any guarantees, and the shipping board announces:

"The board requires complete cancellation of all contracts, failing to realize these cancellations by July, the board will take such steps as it deems necessary to enforce its views."

Aiding the railroads is the Seattle chamber of commerce which fears that the Japs will move to Vancouver, British Columbia, if the contracts are cancelled.

IMMIGRATION SHIFTS.

Washington, March 11.—Because of the 3 per cent immigration law, quotas for southern and southwestern European immigration are virtually exhausted, according to Commissioner General Husband of the immigration bureau.

The commissioner finds that the new immigration law has turned the tide from southern to northern and western Europe, restoring conditions that existed following the civil war and up to the panic of 1893, after which the heavy immigration from Italy, Hungary, the Balkans and Russia began.

Today, except from Russia, which can still supply 17,251 immigrants, the migration from southern and eastern Europe has been cut off. During the last 30 years southern and eastern Europe supplied from 80 to 85 per cent of the immigration.

HERE'S A LABOR SOLUTION.

New York, March 11.—Colonel F. A. Molitor, who styles himself a "consulting engineer," has a solution for railroad labor troubles. He suggests:

Reduction in wages; continuation of the 6 per cent guarantee to the railroads for the next two years; a law making it unlawful and a conspiracy for railroad employes to strike; incorporation of all trade unions and a compulsory filing by them of all financial reports.

TAFFY IS FED TO PUBLIC.

Washington, March 11.—W. J. Burns, the "great detective," announces that he has chased the profiteers into their cyclone cellars. On the same day the bureau of labor statistics informed the world that food costs in the nation's capital—where Burns has his headquarters—increased the past month.

WAGE EARNERS MOBILIZE FORCES RESIST HANDCUFF LEGISLATION

Albany, N. Y., March 11.—Organized labor is waging the strongest legislative fight in its history against "can't-strike" proposals now pending before the state legislature.

Although the most powerful financial interests on this continent are behind the plan, labor defeated the Miller bill, which would prohibit strikes for 60 days. Another bill—known as the Duell-Miller industrial relations court bill—would prohibit strikes and make the state supreme court a party to industrial disputes. This bill was later amended to apply only to public utility employment. Governor Allen of Kansas was imported to acquaint citizens how his handcuff legislation operates.

The proposals have aroused organized workers who have sent large delegations to the state capital to protest against these measures.

President Gompers took personal charge of the labor forces. For three hours he presented labor's views before a legislative committee and headed a delegation of more than 1,200 trade union representatives from various parts of the state who marched from their meeting place, in this city, to the state capitol.

Labor Cost Per Unit of Product Is Test, Not High Wages, Says U. S. Official

Washington, March 11.—The products of American workers can compete in the markets of the world, regardless of high wages, Dr. Julius Klein, director of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, told a subcommittee of the house committee on appropriations.

Dr. Klein said the high cost of labor in the United States had "relatively little" effect on the ability of American business men to compete with foreign producers in outside markets.

"That high cost," said Dr. Klein, "is simply the item of high wages and not high cost. Let me illustrate that, for example, with the coal trade. The wages paid our coal miners are far higher than those paid British coal miners, and yet, under normal circumstances, eliminating the last few weeks when quantities of coal have been dumped abroad by the British under rather peculiar circumstances—under normal circumstances our coal can be put f. o. b. Norfolk at a lower cost than coal can be put on board ship at Cardiff. The reason for that, first of all, is the far greater productive capacity of our workmen, a far more edvanced industrial technique by the American mining and handling companies in machinery for keeping the mines dry, pumping apparatus, lifting and hoisting mechanical devices, and devices for delivering coal on board ship, and so forth.

"Anyone going into a rolling mill in Pittsburgh and then visiting the big German plants at Essen or the big British plants is impressed, first of all, in the American plants with the fact that few men are in sight, whereas in the British and German plants large numbers are seen all over.

"In other words, the labor cost per unit of product, not necessarily the wages, but the labor cost per unit of product, whether it is a ton of coal, a ton of steel, or a yard of goods, is not necessarily to our disadvantage, because of the superior industrial technique in our plants."

"Then I take it you do not fear very much the pauper wages of Europe," said Congressman Griffin.

"I think the danger to our export trade from that direction is exaggerated," replied Dr. Klein. "It is, of course, an item well worth considering, and we should make sure to compare not only the wages but the cost of goods per unit. We should also be very sure that in any such comparisons we are considering the same or similar articles."

Dr. Klein made the interesting statement that Germany's manufacturing industries are being restored "only very gradually," and not as rapidly as is generally supposed. Dr. Klein stated that "she is resorting to a very considerable artificial stimulus, a variety of indirect official aids to trade, such as low taxes and very low freight rates on the government railways of Germany."

Want Old Boss Plan To Replace Primary

Washington, March 11.—The increase of political independence among the people worries those who profit by party discipline in the nation's capital, and demands are being made for a return to the boss-controlled convention system.

Under the primary system the party is not given its proper respect, and too much attention is paid to the voter, say the convention advocates. Added to this is the tumult in the old parties. Divisions and discord mark almost every question. Party discipline is shattered, if not destroyed, and blocs and combines are the order of the day. This condition is causing some of the elder statesmen to question the life of their respective parties, while big business and special privilege bewail the passing of the good old days when "party regularity" cloaked their evil deeds.

The independent tendencies in congress and the breaking up of party lines are of especial interest to trade unionists, who for years stood alone in their demand that voters cast an independent ballot.

OPPOSE SHAM "EQUALITY."

Washington, March 11.—At a conference in this city called by the national women's trade union league, opposition was recorded to the so-called "equal rights" amendment being urged by the national woman's party. The conference called upon the sponsors for this amendment to cease their efforts for blanket legislation and offered to co-operate in any effort to correct discriminatory laws. Edward F. McGrady, A. F. of L. legislative representative, told the conference delegates that the A. F. of L. executive council has asked state federations of labor of those states where legislatures are now in session, to urge opposition to the measure, which was declared to be dangerous to the interests of working women.

One delegate voiced the sentiment of these present when she declared:

"We know what is equality and what is not. Experience has taught us that. The principle of equality is a great thing, but principle be hanged if it is not real. There are so-called equal rights which furnish thrills for the few but have no regard for the lives of the many. We want to remove discriminations, but a blanket law that threatens to take away rights we have, we will fight, and fight to a finish."

BERRY IS RE-ELECTED.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., March 11.—Official canvass of the referendum vote shows that George L. Berry has been re-elected president of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union. He received an electoral vote of 293½ over D. J. Farrell, who received 117½ votes. The incumbent vice-presidents—John M. Brophy, W. H. McHugh and S. B. Marks—were re-elected by the same general ratios. Secretary-Treasurer Joseph C. Orr received 301½ electoral votes over A. B. Kreitler, who received 114½ votes.

The referendum approved a per capita tax increase and increased the death benefits. The 5 per cent assessment is to be continued until May 1 next.

DROPS O. B. U.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, March 11.—The one big union has lost control of the Monarch mine, in Drumheller, where 250 miners have again joined the United Mine Workers. This removes the last vestige of dualism from the Drumheller valley.

RENEW AGREEMENT.

Akron, Ohio, March 11.—Stereotypers and newspaper managers have extended their old agreement for one year.

Railroad Guarantee Ended on March 1

Washington, March 11.—The section of the Cummins-Esch act, which guaranteed returns to railroads, expired on March 1. This guarantee called for 5½ per cent return and an additional one-half of 1 per cent for improvements.

Under the act this guarantee is replaced by another provision which requires the interstate commerce commission to make rates that will give railroads a reasonable return on the value of their property.

The only difference between the two provisions is that under the section that has just expired the commission was specifically authorized to limit railroad returns to 5½ per cent. Under the section now effective the returns are not defined, but the commission must make rates that will make a "reasonable return" possible.

WANT TO HOLD PROFITS.

New York, March 11.—Managers of eastern railroads want that portion of the Cummins-Esch act abolished which requires the carriers to turn back to the government half of their earnings in excess of 6 per cent. The purpose of this clause is to furnish the government with funds so that loans can be made to railroads whose earnings are so small that aid is necessary.

The managers of the eastern trunk lines are opposed to having their profits interfered with. When the law was passed there were no profits, but despite dire predictions, the railroads are reporting profits.

The January report of 125 of the 201 class I railroads shows net operating income of $23,483,205, as compared with a deficit of $300,879 for the same roads in January, 1921.

NEW WORKING RULES.

Chicago, March 11.—A new code of working rules and longer hours for railroad telegraphers and telephone operators has been announced by the railroad labor board. Hereafter straight time will be allowed after nine hours, instead of eight, as formerly. "Split tricks" of eight hours over a period of 12 hours will be permitted.

WANT MINERS DIVIDED INTO STATE GROUPS

New York, March 11.—Behind the coal owners' claim that wages must be reduced, looms their longing to smash the miners' union.

The coal owners' first move was a refusal to arrange for the usual conference of central competitive field representatives. This field consists of western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and is the "key" field for wage negotiations of all soft coal districts.

For 24 years the central competitive field miners and coal owners have met in conference. Now this is to be changed, and the coal owners refuse to meet the miners, though the agreement between the two parties specifically calls for this meeting.

The purpose of the coal owners is shown by F. C. Honnold, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois coal operators' association, who makes this statement in a local newspaper:

"Another development of organized labor during the past few years that is subject to serious question as to its desirability with respect to public welfare is the growing tendency to demand negotiations in large and larger units.

"Without exception each of the separate districts heretofore participating in the so-called central competitive field conference have expressed entire willingness to negotiate with the miners in their own state or district, but Mr. Lewis is not content with such procedure."

This new attitude of the coal owners is a typical anti-union shop move by the frenzied financiers who now manipulate the coal industry and who have crowded out the old-time coal owner who dealt with the union.

How Impartial Is the Railroad Labor Board?

Chicago, March 11.—Railroad employes are asking: "How impartial is the railroad labor board?"

This board has taken conditions from some of these workers that they have maintained for years prior to the war.

Where the board is not destroying conditions fast enough to suit the railroads these corporations establish dummy companies to do their repair work, thereby escaping the board's jurisdiction.

The railroads' attitude toward the board is shown in their defiance of rulings. The Pennsylvania was ordered to hold a new election for employe representatives, when it was proven that less than 10 per cent of the employes were permitted to vote at the company's "union" election. The railroad ignored the order to hold a new election. When the board threatened to publicly censure the railroad it rushed into Judge Landis' court and secured an injunction against the board. This writ was "temporary," but it has been effective for nearly four months, with no prospect of an early hearing, which is satisfactory to the Pennsylvania.

Ben W. Hooper, a member of the board, representing the public, declared recently in New York city before a railroad managers' banquet, that "can't-strike" laws are necessary to "curb the unjust demands of labor."

FLAG WAVER EXPOSED.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 11.—Robert Dollar's hypocritical pleas for an American merchant marine are again exposed.

In his special column in the Citizen, this is what Leon Mirp says of the rabid old union hater:

"Robert Dollar, our canny Pacific coast shipping magnate, who so strenuously argues for shipping in American-owned bottoms, has been caught in the act again. With much eclat he buys four shipping board steamers to replace that number of Jap vessels which he has been chartering. It seems that he has five of these Jap liners under his colors. It would be interesting to hear his explanation as to why he does not buy or charter American-built steamers, of which the shipping board has more than 1,000 lying in the mud flats, instead of patronizing the Jap companies."

WOMEN MAY KEEP WAGES.

Trenton, N. J., March 11.—The assembly has passed a bill which permits married women to retain wages earned in their own homes. The bill was introduced by Margaret B. Laird, who is a member of the assembly from Essex county.

GAIN IN RAIL NET INCOME.

New York, March 11.—The January statement of the Pennsylvania railroad system shows net operating income of $5,008,700, an increase of $5,692,664, as compared with January, 1921, when a deficit was reported.

COAL OWNERS HOLD PROFITS BUT URGE WAGE REDUCTIONS

New York, March 11.—In a statement issued by officers of the anthracite miners, it is declared that substantial reductions in coal owners' profits, profits of the railroads, profits of the coal sales companies, the royalty takers and distributing agencies, and not miners' wages, are needed in the hard coal industry to give the public cheaper coal.

The unionists show that coal is selling in the neighborhood of $12 a ton over and above the labor cost at the mine.

In support of their argument, the miners quote the following passage from the last anthracite coal commission's award, which is the basis for the present working agreement between the miners and coal owners:

> "The commission declines to commit itself to an award which justly could be considered as an encouragement to the so-called 'vicious spiral' in prices. This award, while providing improved conditions for the employes, offers no justification for any advance in retail prices of coal, but, on the other hand, is consistent with a decline in prices. The award has not passed a great burden along to the consumer of coal."

"Despite this attitude by the commission," the statement says, "not only was there no decline in coal prices, but the recent statement of the general policies committee of the operators declares that the increase granted by the commission was reflected in the increasing mine prices of domestic sizes of anthracite.

"The operators skillfully avoid any reference to a reduction of a substantial nature in the matter of their own profits. It is, therefore, obvious that there must be some connection between the operators and all those who handle coal between the operators and the consumers, and, of course, from an interested standpoint, the operators can see deflation so far as the miners are concerned and a continuation of the earnings of operators, railroads, sales companies and others."

WORKERS CAN HAVE NO CLASS PRIDE WHEN LABOR IS HELD IN CONTEMPT

Washington, March 11.—Andrew Furuseth's analysis of the I. W. W. preamble attacks the bummery from a new angle and mows down the whole alignment of oral revolutionists and their pink tea devotees.

Never has the hides of these mush mongers been peeled more artistically. The seamen's executive shows that their talk of a "working class" is prattle and that their teachings make class feeling and class pride impossible because these teachings destroy the workers' pride in his skill and in his creative ability.

Instead of dignifying labor and creating in the minds of workers a pride in their calling, thus laying the foundation for a class pride that can be used for constructive purposes, President Furuseth shows that the I. W. W. pursues a contrary policy; that it has "nothing upon which to base itself unless it be common misery, common hate of labor, common hate of the employer" and continuous efforts to get out of the class for which it affects such high regard.

"The workers as considered and addressed by the preamble cannot under any reasonable definition be called a class," said the trade unionist.

"They have nothing in common unless it be the hunger and want. They have neither a common purpose nor a common occupation. They are not exclusive; they have neither individual nor class pride.

"They accept members, real or expelled, of the employing class as leaders; they borrow ideas, thoughts, language, phrases, manners and customs from the employing class, whom they look up to and consider their betters; they are so eager to get out of their class (?) that they are willing to do almost anything, even risking prison to 'get up,' as they call it.

> "It is by herding such as these into 'mixed assemblies' that they are to create 'the army' that is to upset existing society — better equipped than at any time in the world's history to defend itself against revolutionists.

"This is not to say that real workers may not have some common characteristics, which, properly understood and cultivated would not or could not mold them into a genuine class, notwithstanding their great numbers.

"In the old religions, now called mythology, the workers are thought of as nearest to the gods, because they continue creation.

"Being the artists in production, without which life would be impossible, they might well have a pride in production, in skill, in work well done and a consciousness of their creative capacity that might serve as a foundation for class feeling and class pride.

"We look in vain, however, for any recognition of any such in either the preamble or the constitution. On the contrary, there is a distinct hostility, like in the case of employer or a large number of them, to any craftsmanship or skill.

"Both the documents discredit the very thought. Free interchange of membership cards or transfers from one organization to another within the I. W. W. is insisted upon under penalties. (See transfers). The bakers must be transferred into the shoe makers or blacksmiths into the tailors, the sailors into the teamsters and vice versa.

"There is a distinct opposition to the craft unions or trade unions with their semi-conscious groping after craftsmanship and skill. Their jurisdiction disputes are ridiculed. They are accused of helping the employer in strikes and lockouts, because they—so it is said—encourage agreements being made in such a way as to cause one union to remain at work while another is on strike or locked out, and of helping the employers by misleading the workers into a belief that the workers and the employers may have some interest in common.

"In direct opposition to the truth they insist that the unions encourage such agreements as mentioned above, and this notwithstanding the record of trade unions to the contrary. (See proceedings A. F. of L., 1896-7-8). But this was, of course, before the I. W. W. was organized to help the employer.

"The trade unions being semi-consciously on the right road to or groping after those characteristics—pride in production, in skill, in work well done—and lustily growing, had to be opposed, ridiculed and led astray, or they might become dully conscious of being on the right road, and then become dangerous.

"Within the purview of the I. W. W. there is no pride in production, in skill, in work well done, hence no foundation for any class feeling or class pride. Labor is something to be shunned, to be held in contempt together with the laborer. The working class, so called in the preamble, has therefore nothing upon which to base itself unless it be common misery, common hate of labor, common hate of the employer, and, under their worship of 'economic determinism' — selfishness — suspicion of, and an effort to overreach each other, in their effort to get out of the working class."

SOCIAL STANDING INFLUENCE COURTS

New York, March 11.—The social standing of business men makes them immune from prosecution in state and federal courts, is one of the scathing arraignments of the Lockwood housing committee in its report to the state assembly.

In discussing its attempt to secure convictions under conspiracy laws, the committee says:

"The judges, both in the state and federal courts, have almost consistently treated this class of offenders with tender consideration. In one case in the state court, in which the manufacturers of brick and dealers in building materials were proved guilty of most overt acts, constituting willful frauds upon the public, the court allowed all the defendants to escape with fines.

"The court in that case expounded the extraordinary view that because of the business and social station of these men the humiliation of being compelled to plead 'guilty' to a crime and the imposition of comparatively small fines upon them was a sufficient punishment. The same point of view seems to prevail with the federal judges. There is no hope of compelling obedience to these laws or of enforcing them so long as the courts adopt this attitude."

Check-Off System Stays, Says Lewis

New York, March 11.—"Coal operators say they are going to abolish the check-off system for the collection of union dues from the miners in their employ, but they are not going to do anything of the kind, because the United Mine Workers of America will not permit them to abolish it," writes John L. Lewis, president United Mine Workers of America, in the New York World.

"The check-off," says the unionist, "means that a member of the union authorizes his employer to deduct from his pay the amount of his union dues and assessments and to pay this amount to the union.

"In other words, the employe makes a legal and valid assignment of a small portion of his wages to the union to dissolve his obligation. It is the same as any other assignment of wages to pay a doctor bill, a grocery bill, a landlord or for any other purpose.

"The United States circuit court of appeals decided only recently in Chicago that the check-off is legal and that it could not be abolished by injunction. And the miners will fight for the maintenance of the check-off to the last ditch."

SNARLS AT RAIL LABOR.

New York, March 11.—L. F. Loree, president of the Delaware & Hudson railroad, emitted one of his usual anti-labor snarls before a group of business men in this city.

He ignored recent testimony before a senate committe by former Director General of Railroads McAdoo, who showed that the complete collapse of the railroads forced the government to take control.

Mr. Loree claimed that the government took over the railroads purely for political reasons, and as proof of this statement he quoted from a speech made in El Paso by Director General of Railroads McAdoo, who gave this assurance to railroad employes:

"You railroad men are all my boys now, and so long as you do your duty I do not intend to let anyone kick you around."

This statement, according to Loree, is proof positive that politics and not military necessities were back of government control.

During the war Loree represented the employers on the war labor board. He occupied a similar position in the industrial conference called by President Wilson.

OPPOSE COMPENSATION

Seattle, March 11.—Despairing of securing redress through the state legislature, trade unionists have initiated a new workmen's compensation law for this state.

The anti-union forces are enraged at this flank move and shriek that Washington cannot carry the additional burden.

In reply, the unionists cite the lumber industry, which is 44 per cent of the total industries of the state. In lumber states other than Washington the cost of providing compensation for injured workers ranges from 5.46 to 6.29 of the pay roll. In this state the cost to the lumber industry is only 1¼ per cent.

This, the unionists declare, should in itself be sufficient evidence of the inadequacy of the present law, as compared to other states. There are over 40 states out of the 48 that provide compensation for injured workmen that ranges from 50 per cent to 150 per cent better than that provided in the state of Washington.

FRENZIED PUBLICITY.

Washington, March 11.—In a semi-official record of things accomplished during the first year of the present national administration, trade unionists and the public generally are told that peace reigns in Mingo, West Virginia. Says the publicity agent:

"When the warfare among miners in the Mingo section reached proportions which were considered serious, President Harding was alert to act and soon had peace reigning again in that turbulent district."

It will be noted that the autocratic coal owners are not referred to—just a distressing "warfare among miners," don'tchaknow?

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

Fort Worth, Texas, March 11.—Painting contractors in this city demanded a wage reduction, refused to arbitrate and have locked out their employes.

The contractors also demanded that the employes refuse to work for any one who is not an actual contractor.

PICKETING STOPPED BY FEDERAL JUDGE

Newport, Ky., March 11.—Federal Judge Cochran has acted on the suggestion of Chief Justice Taft in the Granite City case, and now steel strikers at this place are prohibited from picketing "at or near the premises" of the Newport rolling mill. The company is attempting to establish the anti-union shop.

Judge Cochran is quoted as saying that his order is based on the recent picketing decision (Granite City case) of the United States supreme court.

"I always try to follow the supreme court decisions," he said. "In that case the court apparently felt that limiting pickets to one was sufficient to bring about the desired effect. In this case, owing to its extraordinary nature, I felt it was necessary to forbid all pickets in order to restore order."

Judge Cochran stated that he could not recall that any other federal judge ever before prohibited picketing and that he issued the order because "he heard" that there was "an unprecedented condition of disorder in connection with the strike." Asked if he would call on federal troops to enforce the injunction the judge said this was not necessary "because I have no doubt the court's order will be readily obeyed."

The strikers say Judge Cochran must consider them peculiar desperadoes when they will defy all law enforcing authority and then meekly obey a sweeping "thou-shalt-not" order from an injunction judge that denies them fundamental rights.

COURT DECISION STIRS IRE.

Washington, March 11. — Congressmen and senators are hearing "from back home" because the United States supreme court has ruled that a state has no control over rates on a railroad that runs wholly within that state.

Prior to the Cummins-Esch act states had this control. The supreme court has upheld the new policy and its opponents claim that every vestige of state's rights over a purely state railroad has been swept away.

The railroads are in high glee over the decision, but congressmen and senators are receiving notice that if the Cummins-Esch law is not amended so that old policies will be restored, a lot of "heads will be cracked" at the fall elections.

NEW "UNION" FORMED.

New York, March 11.—And now another "union" is announced by communists who are already dissatisfied with the newly organized political workers' party of America and the "union" known as the united labor council of America.

The new organization consists of half a-dozen groups who call themselves the united toilers of America.

The latest movement is one of the many in this city that are formed, disappear, and are then reformed by the same crowd under another name and with profound assurances that the latest venture is along "scientific" lines.

FEDERAL ARBITRATOR STINGS WEB PRESSMEN

New York, March 11.—Newspaper pressmen have agreed to abide by Federal Judge Manton's award, and these workers are now conferring with the publishers and attempting to modify what is declared to be "the most unjust decision ever handed down in an arbitration award."

"Under the award the men lose and the publishers save not less than $6,500,000 a year," said David Simons, president of Newspaper Web Pressmen's union, No. 25. "This comes though taking away from the men conditions that have obtained for more than 30 years, the only conditions they have ever known.

"For example, for more years than most men can remember, the six-hour night law has been the rule in this city. That limit was fixed so far back no one I have ever met can remember when it was otherwise. Now it is fixed at eight hours. So far back as we can go the hours have been from 12 midnight to 6 in the morning. Now, under this rule, the hours are from 7 in the evening until 7 the next morning—that is to say, the time beginning work may be fixed at any time after 7."

The award reduces wages on an average 20 per cent, the lunch hour is taken out of the men's time, and pay for legal holidays is cut from double time to time and one-half. The question of manning the gigantic web presses is placed solely in the hands of the employers. Heretofore pressmen had a voice in the required number of men necessary. The new scheme permits speeding up the workers and takes an important element of democracy from the press room.

WANT ARMY REDUCED.

Washington, March 11.—Differences exist between the president and congress over the size of the army and the navy. The president does not want the army to go below 130,000 men, exclusive of officers, and the navy not lower than 80,000 men, exclusive of officers.

Members of congress want the army cut to 100,000 and the navy to 60,000. The attitude of congress is shown by its appropriation for naval fuel. Navy officials have declared that this sum is so small that it will cripple the navy, but the house rejects the advice of experts. Administration officials fear they have gone too far in their economy plea, which is being taken seriously by members of congress. These law makers ask where will congress economize, if not on the army and navy?

OPPOSES DEATH PENALTY.

Akron, Ohio, March 11.—Opposition to the death penalty was recorded by Harry L. Davis, governor of this state, in a speech in this city. Whether in office or not when the state legislature meets next year, Governor Davis said he would appear before it and ask it to take action to allow voters to pass a constitutional amendment which would abolish the death penalty in Ohio.